

Regarding claim 11 and 12, Applicants respectfully note that claim 11 is directed to an organized network structure, while claim 12 is directed to a device configuration. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that one Markush grouping is not applicable.

With regards to claim 11, Applicants elect nonwoven as the network species for examination, with traverse. Applicants admit that the other networks claimed therein are obvious variants of a nonwoven network.

Regarding claim 12, Applicants elect a disk as the configuration for examination, with traverse. Applicants admit that other configurations claimed in claim 12 are obvious variants of a disk.

Applicants elect devices comprising unbound fibers, without traverse.

Applicants elect devices without coatings, without traverse.

Applicants elect devices not comprising gradient, transitional or layered constructions as claimed in claims 16-18 and 25, without traverse.

Applicants elect an unseeded device, without traverse.

Applicants elect devices having matrices that are not chemically crosslinked or used with hydrogels, as claimed in claim 21.

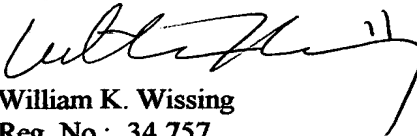
Applicants elect devices not utilizing fibers having a sheath/core construction, as claimed in claim 26.

Applicants elect implants not comprising a barrier layer, as claimed in claims 27-30.

Based on the foregoing elections, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-13 read on the elected species. ?

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing is a complete response to the Office Action and that claims 1-13 are patentable. Applicants further respectfully submit that claims reading on nonelected species are patentable and earnestly request a notice of allowance with respect to claims 1-30.

Respectfully Submitted,



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